

Make me a seal upon your heart

SOLOMON'S *Song of Songs* 8:6-7a (10th century BC)

translated by ADAM F McCUNE

for my wife Blanche

Original Hebrew

שִׁימֵנִי כְּחֹתֶם עַל־לִבֶּךָ
כְּחֹתֶם עַל־רִוְעָךָ
כִּי־עֲזָה כַּמָּוֶת אֶהְיֶה
קָשָׁה כַּשְּׂאוֹל קִנְאָה
רִשְׁפֵּיהָ רִשְׁפֵּי אֵשׁ
שֶׁלֶהֲבַתְיָהּ:
מִיָּם רַבִּים לֹא יוּכְלוּ לְכַבּוֹת אֶת־הָאֵהָבָה
וְנְהָרוֹת לֹא יִשְׁטַפּוּהָ

English Translation

Make me a seal upon your heart,
And on your arm a seal,
For love is strong, as strong as death,
With death's own jealous zeal.

Love burns bright as burning flame,
Like fire from God above.
Great waters cannot quench its fire;
No rivers can drown love.